

Jacksonville Fla.  
Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 1877.

My Dear Husband

The  
Telegram announcing your  
safe return to Washington  
was a great relief to me, for I  
was about to get into one  
of my ways. The Ashtabula  
Bridge affair with all its  
horror was fresh, and I  
just knew there would be another  
equally as disastrous between  
N.Y. and Washington and  
you would certainly be one  
of the victims. The very best I  
could make out of your trip  
was, that you would be snow-  
bound, and couldn't pass.

ably reach W- until several days  
after Congress had convened and  
then, you would be sure to have  
a spell of Pneumonia in consequence  
of exposure to the severe cold while  
in N.Y. - But the Telegram came  
assuring me of your safe return,  
and very soon followed the letter  
saying you were quite well. I  
know I never felt more thankful  
in all my life, and I would have  
replied immediately, but was suffer-  
ing with head-ache and neuralgia.

This morning I received yours  
of the 4<sup>th</sup> Inst. - telling us all about  
your trip, we enjoyed it very much  
Lillie was here, she regrets that you  
did not wait until summer  
and see the Great City in all  
its beauty.

And now darling  
allow me to thank you for



my nice 'New Year's gift'. I know  
it is just the thing, though, I have  
not yet had the pleasure of seeing  
it. The "bill of lading" came this morn-  
ing, and possibly the buggy came  
too, though I have had no notice of it.  
I appreciated that part of yr letter  
which said "no one else had any  
interest in it" but I don't think  
the boys enjoyed it much, especially  
Ed. - he says it just does him  
good. I think how many nice rides  
to Pickwick she will have in Ma's  
new buggy -

We have had nothing  
done for two weeks past, but  
make fires and feed stock.  
We determined yesterday to start  
our new negro out this morning  
to hauling wood, but Lightning  
fell down on him and hurt  
his leg badly, so he is laid up.

Lightning had not been out for two weeks (they have been watered in the stable) so she was pretty skittish, and while running pretty rapidly she came upon a sheet of ice and slipped and fell on the boy's leg, he had to be brought home in a buggy and I feared he was badly hurt, but he thinks not, his leg is swollen and he is unable to use it.

Ed got Bill Henderson and they took both wagons and have gone out for wood today. I hope they will have no trouble, but the roads are in such a frozen slippery condition that they are almost impassible. The snow that fell N. years day is still visible notwithstanding several days rain, the rain freezes as fast as it falls, forming a complete icing over the earth.



I have never known anything to equal the severity of the weather -  
 just to think of the Thermometre getting  
 down to 3 degrees in fact & indeed  
 My flowers are all frozen, but my  
 bird is still living in spite of the  
 "wind and the weather" It was my  
 orange tree that I called my pet  
 and not my bird. I prized my  
 Orange more than anything but  
 I believe it is dead root and  
 branch.

There have been some changes  
 for the New Year - Seymour has gone  
 to the Hammond place in the Flak  
 and Mr Laird has moved into  
 the Hammond house near our Church.  
 Lon and Annie have not gone to  
 house-keeping as was their calculation  
 I think Lon has been taking his tea  
 again. John Wyly is behaving ridic-  
 ulously, he has scarcely drawn a  
 sober breath since you left, and  
 of late he mistreats Amelia

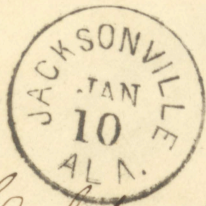
and the children, he gave Anne a lick a few days ago which left her with a swollen face. I don't know what is to become of the poor woman and all those little children.

The M.O. of which you spoke will be very acceptable as I have been on credit some time. Johnnie has just come in and say he received the Orders this morning which I did not know before.

Walter has gone to Dadeville to see after Welsh's Claims on a house that has recently failed.

Hoping you will continue to write often. I will close, with a dull heavy head but a heart full of love to you.

Affectionately Yours  
M. D. Caldwell



Hon<sup>le</sup> - Jno H. Caldwell  
(House of Representatives)  
Washington  
D.C.